

REMARKS

In the Official Action of June 17, 2005, the Examiner required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 among four allegedly distinct inventions, namely:

Group I, referring to claims 1-9, drawn to a data processing method for cost/price determination;

Group II, referring to claims 10-13, drawn to a method of demultiplexing a single input channel to plural output channels with order of selection;

Group III, referring to claims 14-17, drawn to an electrical audio signal processing system and devices/broadcast or multiplex stereo; and

Group IV, referring to claims 18-25, drawn to a process for changing system settings or operational modes in a digital data processing system after the system has been set.

The Examiner has contended that the inventions of Groups I, II, III and IV are related as combination and subcombination, that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed, and that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. More particularly, the Examiner has contended that the invention of Group I has separate utility such as a business method of determining the price/cost limit of an item such as purchasing an item over the Internet through E-commerce; that the invention of Group II has separate utility such as a method of extracting a received multiplex stream according to a predetermined scheme such as priority of receiving a media stream based on bandwidth availability; that the invention of Group III has separate utility such as encoding/decoding audio signals based on a predetermined encoding/decoding scheme; and that the invention of Group IV has separate utility such as protecting media content from

illegal use while offering the user an opportunity to preview music/songs in a pay-per-play or on-demand arrangement.

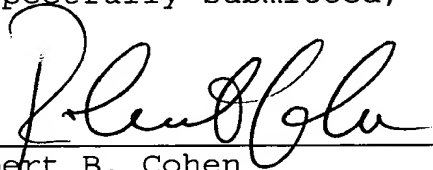
In response to the restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-9, for further prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 10-25 stand withdrawn from consideration in the present application without prejudice to applicants' right to file one or more divisional applications directed thereto.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants